

Tempe Municipal Court

2021 State of the Court Executive Summary



No doubt 2020 was an incredibly challenging year for everybody, given the Covid-19 pandemic. No less so for the Tempe Municipal Court and its employees. I am immensely proud of how our court personnel has rallied this last year to adjust to the challenges and limitations presented by the pandemic. We have remained open throughout the pandemic as directed by the Arizona Supreme Court. We continued to support and achieve the Court's mission statement and fulfill our legal responsibilities to the community and to the individuals who have had business with the Court. The information below is provided as testament to our efforts as we look forward to a better 2021.

Kevin Kane, Presiding Judge
Tempe Municipal Court

Mission

Tempe Municipal Court is committed to providing the community with an independent judiciary that serves the public by the fair and impartial administration of justice resulting in the enhancement of public trust and confidence in the court system.

» 2020 Operational Efficiencies & Accomplishments «

- Coronavirus Response: Implemented enhancements to the Case Management System and internal business processes to conduct telephonic and virtual proceedings, including Civil Traffic Hearings, Non-Jury Trials, Protective Orders and In-Custody Proceedings, thereby reducing the number of people in the courthouse. Implemented court staff teleworking schedule, installed plexiglass barriers in all courtrooms and rearranged court seating to promote social distancing.
- Expanded Compliance Assistance Program (CAP) eligibility, which helped 1321 people resolve past due fines, fees and assessments on criminal violations, civil traffic, civil and parking to reinstate their driving privileges; set-up 1837 CAP time payment contracts.
- Implemented new online payment services, extending case type eligibility and enhanced recurring payment plan option.
- Installed two public access computers in the Court lobby to facilitate AZ Statewide Protective Order Project and provide access to other public agencies and City services.
- Collaborated with partners in the justice system to provide municipal court services for the Town of Guadalupe due to the closure of its court.
- Implemented an alternative work schedule.
- Adopted a new Strategic Agenda for Tempe Municipal Court.
- Implemented mandated Legislative changes and AZ Supreme Court Rules updates.

» 2020 Improving Public Access; Fostering Education; Learning; «

- Updated Jury/Training Room audio and visual equipment.
- Created fillable PDF forms to facilitate electronic filings.
- Recognized Law Day by creating and sharing a video with Tempe Kid Zone, Tempe schools and on the court website, as a way to continue to communicate and cultivate a deeper understanding of the legal profession and the role of law in society for different youth groups in Tempe.

» 2020 Community Collaboration «

- Partnered with 6 courts, the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Tempe Human Services, Gilbert Youth & Adult Resources, Scottsdale Youth & Family Services and others, the East Valley Regional Veterans Court served 387 veterans, including 132 with Tempe cases.
- Partnered with AHCCCS Complete Care Groups and Tempe Human Services to provide Mental Health Court services to 295 participants.
- Partnered with 49 courts in Maricopa County Regional Homeless Court, to help individuals address underlying issues, end their homelessness, and gain self-sufficiency.
- Collaborated with ASU to further research opportunities related to improvement of Court programs.
- Participated in local, regional and statewide community and court improvement efforts, including:
 - ◊ AZ Supreme Court Limited Jurisdiction Courts Committee
 - ◊ AZ Supreme Court Interpreter Program Advisory Committee
 - ◊ AZ Supreme Court Leadership Institute of Arizona
 - ◊ ASU Homeless Legal Assistance Program
 - ◊ ASU School of Social Transformation
 - ◊ Annual Veterans StandDown
 - ◊ Tempe Homeless Solution Task Force
 - ◊ Tempe Right to Breathe Initiative

» Looking Forward «

- Continue development of online services, including additional payment options and email/text notification of court events.
- Evaluate electronic document management system to facilitate development and implementation of active case imaging, paper-on-demand environment and Bench automation.
- Continue advancement of the AZ Judicial Branch Strategic Agenda Goals, City of Tempe Values and Tempe City Council Strategic Priorities by way of the Court Strategic Agenda.

FAST FACTS

- ⇒ Tempe Municipal Court is one of 167 limited jurisdiction courts in Arizona.
- ⇒ The Court conducts business seven days per week, 365 days per year.
- ⇒ The Court has one of the highest case-to-personnel ratios of the largest Municipal Courts in Maricopa County.
- ⇒ The Court has 3 Judges, 2 Commissioners, 11 Judges Pro Tempore and 35 staff positions.

Charges and Petitions Filed - FY 19/20, FY 18/19 and FY 17/18

Charge Types	FY 19/20 Charges	% of Total	FY 18/19 Charges	% of Total	FY 17/18 Charges	% of Total
Criminal Traffic and Misdemeanors	14,012	28%	15,666	23%	15,642	26%
Civil Traffic	13,477	27%	18,082	27%	19,228	31%
Parking	19,001	38%	29,749	44%	23,472	38%
Local Ordinances	2,599	5%	2,683	4%	1,712	3%
Total Protective Order Petitions Filed	925	2%	1,171	2%	1,027	2%
Total	50,014		67,351		61,081	

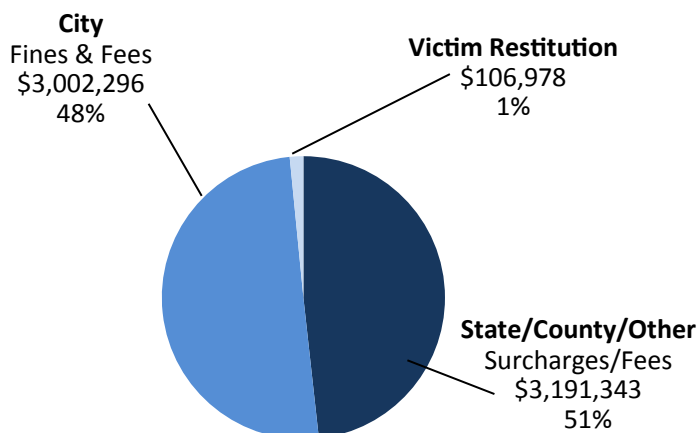
Customer Service - FY 19/20, FY 18/19 and FY 17/18

Measurement	FY 19/20	FY 18/19	FY 17/18
Court Visitors Screened through Security	80,194*	109,722	116,412
Individuals Served at Public Window	4,264*	34,781	36,958
Payments by Phone (IVR)	6,782	8,726	9,869
Payments by Website (IWR)	34,633	38,369	33,826
Mail Payments Processed	5,420	8,846	9,707
Correspondence Received/Filings Processed	24,357	28,087	28,805

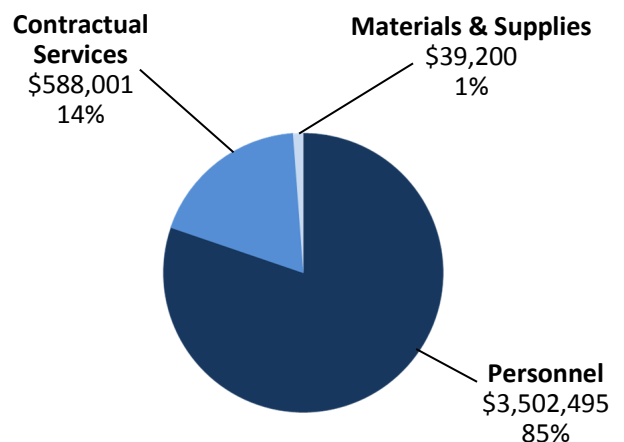
*Due to the spread of COVID-19 many court services were offered remotely, reducing the need for the public to appear in-person.

FY 19/20 Financial Information

Total monies collected by the Court in Fiscal Year 19/20 was \$6,300,617. Tempe Municipal Court operating budget from City general fund for Fiscal Year 19/20 was \$4,129,696 (excludes City Internal Services budget).



Revenue: What the Court Collects



Expenditures: What the City Budgets for Court Operations

Sources: Administrative Office of the Courts' Case Activity Report FY2019/20; Administrative Office of the Courts' Quarterly Revenue Survey FY2019/20; Tempe Municipal Court Monthly Workload Indicators from Case Management System; PeopleSoft Financials.